

CECILY BRENNAN

'Black Tears'

13 JANUARY – 26 FEBRUARY

ARTIST TALK:

THURSDAY 13 JANUARY, 5:30 pm



Crawford Art Gallery presents **'Black Tears'** by **Cecily Brennan** as part of a series of screenings by Irish and International artists.

'Black Tears' (2010) observes Irish actress Britta Smith immersed in unexplained grief. Her sadness is accentuated during the course of the video when she appears to be weeping black tears.

While our instinct might be to politely avert our gaze from a woman in distress, Cecily Brennan's powerful and evocative 'Black Tears' asks us to confront and question personal affliction. The work conjures up a maelstrom of questions directed both to the weeping woman and within oneself addressing, at least, vulnerability and strength.

From a basis in painting and drawing Brennan's practice has expanded to encompass video, sculpture and installation addressing two related but distinct subjects, that of physical pain and affliction, on the one hand, and that of psychological trauma, on the other. Damage and fortitude are her abiding concerns, and the perennial search for those strategies of survival that allow ordinary human beings to endure and overcome the various afflictions by which they are beset¹.

To launch the screening Cecily Brennan will give an informal presentation on Thursday 13 January, 5:30 pm (free entrance).

Cecily Brennan lives and works in Dublin and Berlin and has shown extensively in Ireland and internationally including 'Transmediale' MMX Berlin, (2011); 'Love Video' Oriol Mostyn Gallery, Wales (2011); 'Dark Waters' Station Project Platform Arts, Belfast (2011); 'Collecting the New' Irish Museum of Modern Art (2010); 'Unbuilding' Mermaid Arts Centre (2011); 'Black Tears' Taylor Galleries, Dublin (2010); 'Voices' commissioned by Breaking Ground, Ballymun (2009); Ard Bia, Berlin (2009); 'Singing the Real' Iziko South African National Gallery, Capetown (2007) and 'Balancing' Ormeau Baths Gallery, Belfast (2005).

For further information please contact: dawnwilliams@crawfordartgallery.ie

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www.crawfordartgallery.ie

(Image: ©Cecily Brennan, 'Black Tears' 2010 HD Video 8')
www.cecilybrennan.com



¹ Aidan Dunne, Irish Times, May 5, 2010